(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to ratify the International convention on the protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Government of India has signed the International Convention on the rights for Persons with disabilities on the 30th March, 2007. Provisions of the convention are implemented by the Central Government Ministries, State Governments/UT Administration and monitored through Central Coordination Committee and Central Executive Committee set up under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

Attempts to limit reservations

3468. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any attempt to limit the social reservations granted to various sections of the society;

(b) if so, whether steps will be taken to protect the reservation granted to scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as on date;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme

3469. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the initiatives taken under this programme during the last three years; and

(d) the funds released and utilized; State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fellowships are provided through the University Grants Commission to ST students to pursue M.Phil. and Ph.D courses, in any university/institution recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Up to 667 such fellowships may be awarded annually. The details of financial assistance provided under the scheme are as under:

Sl. No.	Item	Amount(per student)
1	Fellowship	@Rs. 8000/- p.m. for initial two years (JRF) @Rs. 9000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (SRF)
2.	Contingency for Humanities and Social Sciences	@Rs. 10000/- p.m. for initial two years @Rs. 20500/- p.a. for remaining tenure
3.	Contingency for Sciences	@Rs. 12000/- p.a. for initial two years @Rs. 25000/- p.m. for remaining tenure
4.	Departmental Assistance	@Rs. 3000/ p.a. per student to the host institution for providing infrastructure.
5.	Escorts/Reader Assistance	@ Rs. 1000/- p.a. in case of physically and visually handicapped candidates.
6.	House Rent Allowance	As per the UGC pattern.

(c) and (d) The scheme was launched during the year 2005-06. During the year 2005-06 Rs. 7.95 cr was released and during 2006-07 Rs. 15.90 cr was released. UGC has intimated that 990 candidates have been awarded fellowships under the scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07. Fellowships are not awarded state-wise.

Vocational training centres in Madhya Pradesh

†3470. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present ten vocational training centres are being run with the assistance of Central Government in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that government have not provided any grant for running such centres during the last five years whereas 100 per cent amount is to be paid by the Central Government;

(c) the number of proposals of the State Government are pending for Government's approval along with the amount in each case; and

(d) the reasons for keeping these proposals pending and by when this amount would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) All the proposals for grant-in-aid for vocational Training Centres are considered on the basis of availability of funds and the receipt of Utilization Certificates (UCs) which are due in respect of the grants released in the previous years. Accordingly, the grants released by the Central Government to the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh in the last five years are as under:—

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Nil	Nil	Nil	57.00 lac	198.81 lac

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.